

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Commercial Agency Register, January, 1872, McMurtry, Sprague & Co., is the organ of the Commercial Agency which for more than thirty years has supplied merchants, bankers, and manufacturers with information from all parts of the United States and Canada, to aid them in determining the character and responsibility of applicants for credit. An experience so lengthened, with greatly increased facilities, has enabled the proprietors to expand and improve the Agency until it has become a recognized standard of commercial credit. Without its aid no prudent merchant now attempts to dispense credit. Nor are its benefits confined to this city, for it has associates in all the large cities, as well as in Great Britain. The Register now before us is an immense volume, and one of great value to every business man.

The New View of Hell, by B. F. BARRETT (B. Lippincott & Co.), undertakes to show the nature, whereabouts, and duration of that place of penal torment, according to the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. The author maintains that the true doctrine of Hell is at once rational and scriptural, in harmony with the love and wisdom of God, as well as with the teachings of experience and philosophy, and of a benevolent influence upon the character of believers. Hell, according to the most recent information on the subject, is not a lake of fire and brimstone that has been created for the purpose of inflicting punishment on sinners. The new view teaches that like the kingdom of Heaven, Hell is within the mind of the transgressor, and consists in a state of life in which the love of self has absolute dominion in the heart. To have hell in the soul, to be in a state of supreme self-love, is to be in Hell, just as having heaven within, or loving the Lord supremely and the neighbor as one's self, is to be in heaven. The author illustrates and enforces the main idea of his volume with great fullness of detail, and frequent beauty of expression. His discussion is conducted with an admirable sweetness of spirit, unusual in theological controversy, while his conclusions are left to depend on their inward attractiveness, and the authority of the Swedish mystic, rather than on any positive external evidence of their truth.

Mines, Mills, and Furnaces of the Pacific States and Territories, by ROSSITER W. RAYMOND (J. B. Ford & Co.), contains the report of the United States Commissioner of Mining Statistics on the mines of California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and other important mineral localities in the regions of the mining industry in the Pacific States and Territories, of the metallurgical processes of the most recent date, and a variety of miscellaneous topics connected with the main subject of the work. Among the incidental points noticed by the author is the employment of Chinese labor in mining industry, which he regards as well adapted for success in that branch. Most of the Chinese are engaged in working placers on their own account, in which they exercise greater economy than the whites. They often lay up abandoned claims, and reopen them with profit. A different kind of skill is required in deep mining, and for this the Chinese have not been found remarkably well adapted. They are to be judged, however, as individuals, not as a class. The skilled miners among them are equal to any other race. In some instances, they are superior to the white men employed in the same mines. In point of fidelity, they far surpass the European miners. The author is of opinion, that if the Chinese maintain their hold in this country, it will not be by the cheapness of their labor, but by its excellence. There is one good mine in California, in which a white supervisor, a black foreman, and a force of twelve miners work very well together. In connection with the industrial and statistical information with which the volume abounds, it throws great light on the general development of the extreme West, and is no less valuable to the public than to the man of business.

The posthumous story of Mr. Hawthorne's in The Atlantic begins to develop the vein of weird imagination which the great novelist was accustomed to manage with such signal effect. His insight into the dim recesses of the human heart is betrayed, as usual, in incidental aphorisms of profound suggestiveness, though of little prominence. A second edition of the "Echo Club" produces some quaint criticisms of the current literature of the day, which are set off with a successful imitation of the manner of Emerson and other renowned poets. The writer is not avenged on an occasional bit of paradox, as when he affirms the remarkable meekness of Mr. Emerson's "Brahma," and remarks that "bearing a few idiosyncrasies of expression there are few authors so transparently clear," though he sometimes mistakes "boldness of language for humor." Mr. Parton presents a lively picture of "Jefferson as a Student of Law," which bears internal evidence of accuracy in the main, though not without a trace of the author's fondness for dramatic coloring. He holds up as a model the pedantic habits of Jefferson in matters of personal detail, regarding as a proof of high culture that he "lived pen in hand," and kept a garden-book, a farm-book, a weather-book, a receipt-book, and a pocket-expenditure book, in which there was nothing too trivial to be entered; upon the first day of green peas to the penny put into the church-box. "The Poet of the Breakfast Table," however, is a good study of the social life of the Dutch, who are apparently true to the reality, and certainly brilliant in their manner. One feature of the Hollander we sets forth in a different light from that in which it has appeared to most previous travelers, that is, the cleanliness of the people, which he thinks is greatly overrated. Their passion for neatness is almost entirely limited to external objects, but does not extend to any instinct of purity, and is based on a certain necessity, springing from the character of the climate and their habits of theft. The atmosphere is always moist, precipitating sleet and drifts of snow, producing mud, decay, and waste. Hence, the Dutch always keep the scrubbing brush in hand and fight against dirt to save their skins. But to persons neath the common people are totally indifferent, and even the more prosperous classes seldom fall into society over fresh water and clean linen. "Old Books in New-York," by William C. Prime, has a certain flavor of antique mold and rustic texture, full of curiosities bibliographical and historical anecdote. "The Days of Queen Anne," by Eugene Lawrence, like all the magazine papers of that writer, is the fruit of learned research and artistic skill, reproducing some of the most prominent personages of the age in a gallery of admirable portraits.

The new number of Harper opens with an article by M. D. Conway on "The Scott Centenary at Edinburgh," in which the versatile writer has accomplished the difficult task of saying something new on a subject which has long seemed hackneyed beyond the hope of redemption. Mr. Conway was present in person at the festival of which he has here given a plangent description, and which he has made the occasion of collecting a budget of anecdotes not before published illustrative of the character and habits of the illustrious "Scottish chief." A second paper on "Holland and the Hollanders," by Junius Henri Brown, presents a series of minute sketches of the social life of the Dutch, which are apparently true to the reality, and certainly brilliant in their manner. One feature of the Hollander we sets forth in a different light from that in which it has appeared to most previous travelers, that is, the cleanliness of the people, which he thinks is greatly overrated. Their passion for neatness is almost entirely limited to external objects, but does not extend to any instinct of purity, and is based on a certain necessity, springing from the character of the climate and their habits of theft. The atmosphere is always moist, precipitating sleet and drifts of snow, producing mud, decay, and waste. Hence, the Dutch always keep the scrubbing brush in hand and fight against dirt to save their skins. But to persons neath the common people are totally indifferent, and even the more prosperous classes seldom fall into society over fresh water and clean linen. "Old Books in New-York," by William C. Prime, has a certain flavor of antique mold and rustic texture, full of curiosities bibliographical and historical anecdote. "The Days of Queen Anne," by Eugene Lawrence, like all the magazine papers of that writer, is the fruit of learned research and artistic skill, reproducing some of the most prominent personages of the age in a gallery of admirable portraits.

The February number of Old and New is devoted, in a great measure, to the commemoration of Washington, apon his birth-day in that month. Next to the introductory paper which offers an explanation, and a half-way apology for the plan, we have a selection from the "Unpublished Writings of Washington," taken from his letters relating to Braddock's campaign, together with sundry dispatches of the Revolutions which were omitted by Mr. Sparks in his excellent compilation, and have not since been printed by other collectors. The editor accompanies the article with some appropriate remarks, referring to the question of Carle, who is said to have once asked an American visitor if we could not take Washington down a little. He thought we had made too much of him. The suggestion of Carle, by the way, is twice quoted in the course of a few pages. Other papers on the same subject are "Washington the General," "Washington's Expressions of Command," "The Standard Libraries of Washington," "Washington's Agricultural Letters," and "Contemporaneous Washingtonian Poetry." Mr. Richard Greenough's brief article on the expression of Washington's countenance is one of extreme interest. In working from Houston's bust, he was impressed with the air of sadness which was the dominant tone of the portrait, and was prompted to search for the cause of melancholy that were hidden behind the splendid achievements of the man. These he found in the professional jealousies, treachery, the want of comprehension and sympathy, the vacillations and destruction of many sentiments natural to one who was human, but lawless, and lacking every faculty of the kind. traces of his suffering are visible in the features of his face, and a book for \$1, book, \$1, or engraving, \$1, or the sum of the three for \$1 sent to any address.

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